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AMONG THE PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

PACIFIC COAST DEPARTMENT.

DURING the past three weeks the Director of the Pacific Coast Department has given four addresses before women's clubs in San Francisco, two addresses at church services, six speeches in the Fresno High School and grammar schools, and one before the Morgan Hill High School. He has also helped to organize a temporary branch of the American Union Against Militarism in San Francisco, and has coached half a dozen young school debaters against militarism.

Twenty-five letters of protest against the Chamberlain Army bill were secured to be sent to Congressmen. Nearly 27,000 pages of peace literature have been distributed, and Peace Day programs were sent to practically all the high schools in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. Programs were also sent to the city superintendents and supervising principals of California and to the grammar schools of the cities of Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and San Francisco.

The Director made it possible to hold the Eighth Annual Intercollegiate Peace Prize Contest at Liberal Arts College, in southern California, on May 11. The question for discussion was:

"Why the United States should not make any material increase in the strength of her army and navy at the present time."

The speakers were: Eugene Blalock, University of Southern California, "America's Opportunity," first prize; Harold N. Story, Whittier College, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," second prize; Raymond Wansley, Pomona College, "Patriotism and Preparedness;" Gene Heywood, Throop Institute, "Preparedness: For What?"

The prizes were offered by the California Peace Society.

Director Robert C. Root accepted, on June 1, an offer from a Western Chautauqua to take the platform with a United States army officer in a series of debates on preparedness. The itinerary called for appearances throughout northern California, Oregon, and Washington for a period of at least two weeks.

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT.

An address before the Rochester Peace Society was given on May 22 by Dr. Henri La Fontaine, president of the International Bureau of Peace Societies of Berne, Switzerland, on the subject, "Peace Movements of the Past and Future." An extended program of activities for the coming year for this society is at present under consideration.

NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT.

In an address delivered before the Second World Court Congress in New York, May 2, and at the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, May 17, Dr. James L. Tryon, Director of the New England Department of the American Peace Society, warned his hearers against the plan to maintain international peace by force, urging that that method would involve this country in the evils of the "balance-of-power" system, and perhaps bring it into war sooner than would complete isolation. He strongly favored, on the contrary, the development of a world court without coercive force

behind it as the true basis of future world amity. Plans for permanent international military coercion, such as those proposed by Professor Van Vollenhoven and the League to Enforce Peace must, he declared, be further studied before they could be adopted, for they are impracticable without world federation, and such federation is at the present time impossible. As a policy for the United States, he favored the co-operation of the various national forces in temporary emergencies, as in the case of the Boxer rebellion. Thus might public safety for all nations be preserved without the necessity of entangling alliances.

MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY.

The sixth annual meeting of the Massachusetts Peace Society was held at the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, May 24. Following the business session, Secretary Haskins presented his stereopticon lecture on "The War Against War."

Local committees of the society now number forty-five. In addition to those mentioned in the October ADVOCATE, committees have been started in the following towns and cities: Amherst, Ayer, Chicopee, Framingham, Franklin, Haverhill, Hawley, Holden, Hull, Ipswich, Lowell, Lynn, Middleboro, Milford, Montague, Newton, Pepperell, Plainville, Rochester, Rockland, Salem, Sharon, Somerville, Sterling, Wakefield, Watertown, Williamstown, Worcester.

PEACE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS IN AMERICA.

A condensed statement of the work of the association during the last year appears in *The Messenger of Peace*, Richmond, Indiana, for May. It includes the wide distribution of "Spiritual Danger to the United States from the War in Europe," many peace publications, including *The Messenger*, co-operation with other societies, general correspondence and distribution of literature, and international affiliations with the English Friends and others in war relief work. Contributions are urgently requested.

THE WOMAN'S PEACE PARTY.

The 1916 Year Book, published from the headquarters of the organization, 116 S. Michigan avenue, Chicago, contains entertaining summaries of the five sessions of the first annual meeting of the Woman's Peace Party, in Washington, D. C., January 8-10. The booklet also includes the reports of the national secretary and the executive secretary, a summary of the activities of the national headquarters, the treasurer's and organizer's reports, and five recommendations forming a protest against "unprecedented expenditure for war preparations at this session of Congress," followed by a further protest against "the introduction, continuance, and increase of military training in our educational system," and urging propaganda against it.

PENNSYLVANIA ARBITRATION AND PEACE SOCIETY.

The following report of the Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Society was made to the Board of Directors recently, on the subject of military training in the schools:

It seems that all over the country a determined agitation to introduce this system of military education has

taken place. Inasmuch as the Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Society seemed to be the only organization which had already prepared material on the subject or had material published by the Friends' Peace Association, Philadelphia, we have become the center of information and supply in combating this proposed departure in American education. We have already published and distributed thirty-eight thousand copies of four articles, and have in addition to this distributed four thousand pamphlets on "Rifle Practice" and "Military Training in Schools and Colleges," issued by the Friends' Association. We now have in addition a pamphlet which is a combination of our first four separate issues. Upon two different occasions we have forwarded to members of the board of education in Philadelphia literature on the question of military training.

In this connection, for the purpose of allying the churches in the movement to oppose this introduction of military training, literature and a return postcard has been sent to all the ministers of Philadelphia asking them to allow their names to stand for a committee to encourage the adoption of gymnastic exercises rather than military training.

Another work which has been undertaken in connection with the ministers, and under the direction of the Church Peace Union, was a questionnaire asking for an expression of their opinion on the present agitation for "preparedness." The response to this inquiry was made by return postcard, and 112 ministers oppose "preparedness" and 8 are in favor. The entire 120 are in favor of national action looking toward a substitution of law for war.

MINNESOTA PEACE SOCIETY.

There was recently in Minneapolis an interesting week's program for those concerned in peace movements. David Starr Jordan spoke on "A League of Nations" to a large audience in the new Hennepin Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. In the T. B. Walker Art Gallery the annual meeting of the Minneapolis section of the Minnesota Branch of the American Peace Society was held. Dr. Jordan spoke, and then answered numerous questions from the audience.

G. Lowes Dickinson, of England, gave an address a few days later, in the Little Theater, at the State University, Minneapolis, on the purpose of the League to Enforce Peace.

PERMANENT NEUTRAL CONFERENCE AT STOCKHOLM.

The Permanent Neutral Conference, established through the initiative and generosity of Henry Ford, at Stockholm, Norway, issues a formal announcement of its convention to "Governments, Parliaments, and Peoples of the Belligerent Nations." The conference, made up of delegates from six neutral nations, represents no government and has no official sanction, but declares itself, as a group of disinterested individuals, ready "to do everything within its power to promote such discussion as may tend to bring the belligerents together on just and reasonable terms." It establishes, however, seven principles on which "agreement seems possible." These are: The right of nations to decide under what authority they shall be governed; the "open door" for all former belligerents and the return of Germany's colonies; the freedom of the seas; parliamentary control of each nation's foreign policy; international organization; disarmament by international agreement, and the establishment of a world congress.

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES.

"We believe it is time for the Christian Church to speak and act in strength and assurance of a deep and full loyalty to Jesus Christ."

These are the opening words of the declaration made by the American Council of the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship Through the Churches, whose first national conference was recently held at Garden City. The conference was a notable one in practical harmony of views, in the addresses delivered, and in the men present. Forty denominations were represented, having a church membership exceeding twenty-three million.

The churches and Christians of America were earnestly invited to co-operate in this movement to promote friendship and good will among the nations, on the ground that "permanent peace must be ultimately based on religious sanctions, and back of all international agreements must be good will."

There was no particular discussion of the questions of "military preparedness" or "anti-preparedness." All were agreed that the permanent peace of the world ultimately depends on the development in the nations of a spirit of good will and brotherhood, and that it is the special work of the church "to make all men believe that the gospel of love and faith and hope is practical, the only practical way of life for men and nations." Loyalty to the Kingdom of God was declared to be "supreme above all loyalties," and the special and essential contribution of the church and of Christians to "preparedness" for permanent peace to be not physical, but moral and spiritual.

To aid in this work every communion and denomination in the United States is invited to establish a Peacemakers' Commission, in order to enter into close affiliation and practical co-operation with the American Council of the World Alliance. Every local congregation also is invited to connect itself with this world movement by establishing its own Peacemakers' Committee. The headquarters of the American Council is in New York. Inquiries should be sent to the secretaries, Rev. Frederick Lynch or Rev. Sidney L. Gulick, 105 East 22d street.

WISBECH LOCAL PEACE ASSOCIATION, WISBECH, ENGLAND.

The 37th report of this association, one of the largest peace societies in the world, and presided over by Miss P. H. Peckover, embodies, among other interesting information, the declaration of the members: "I believe all war to be contrary to the mind of Christ, who says: 'Love your enemies' 'Do good to them that hate you,' and am desirous to do what I can to further the cause of peace." There are also the following significant resolutions unanimously adopted at the autumn meeting:

1. "This committee protests strongly against any form of compulsory military service as subversive of British freedom and liberty of conscience."
 2. "This committee considers that at the coming peace it is important that decided effort should be made for the international abolition of compulsory military service."
- It was felt that there can be no permanent peace while this system enables governments to hurl nations blindly one against another.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL, ENGLAND.

The report for 1914-1916 shows little sign that the war has had any discouraging influence on this large organization. Thirteen affiliated societies have been added to the list, already large, making a total of fifty-five groups now represented by the council. The report

shows further that twenty-four meetings of the council have been held since the outbreak of hostilities, with forty meetings of the various committees. Also interchange of official and other publications with societies in other countries has been kept up in so far as the war has permitted. The council's monthly circular for May 15 publishes the text of the international resolution for this year. This is the resolution submitted to the peace societies throughout the world each year by the International Peace Bureau on May 18. Deploing the blight that the war has cast upon constructive thinking in Europe, the resolution continues:

We once more asseverate that the mission of peace or humanitarian societies is to train men not as soldiers but as citizens, pledged to abide by the self-imposed restrictions of international law.

We deem it our immediate duty to establish with the least possible delay the closest union of peace societies, and to undertake that task with a view of forming an International Peace Party solid and powerful enough to influence public opinion throughout the civilized world.

JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another, is known in law as an "issue." Taking up the two sides respectively is called "joining the issue." A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to "join the issue." With this aim in view this department was started in our August number, and it is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of "joining the issue." Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

The following communication refers to a circular issued by the Washington Peace Society on the occasion of the Preparedness Parade in that city, June 14. The essence of the circular is embodied in our editorial upon another page, entitled "Preparedness Parades":

"SIR: 'Real Preparedness' does not consist of imbecility. I intend to parade tomorrow and my patriotism is neither artificial nor affected. Neither is my patriotism cheap. I am willing to give my full share to support an adequate Army and Navy, and in case of need would be glad to give my life for my country. I have no patience with the kind of rubbish in this circular, and I hope I won't find any more in my mailbox. When the most powerful nation on earth has pronounced a treaty merely to be a 'scrap of paper,' it is time to arm to the teeth, until the reign of law supersedes the reign of force. (*Sic!*) In your stupidity you do not seem to understand that the language of this circular is a direct insult to any red-blooded American, which you are not!

(Signed)

"DISGUSTED."

DEAR ADVOCATE:

Although I was surprised to see my little letter in print in the April number, still I do not regret having written it. Indeed, it is because I have always had such a warm admiration for the paper that my disappointment in its attitude during these war times kept growing. I appreciate the editor's generosity in asking me to write again, since I must continue to criticise his department.

I have no fault to find with the paper, as to its aim, matter, or style. There is nothing lacking in the contributed articles. The writers as a rule put their finger on the causes of the war and tell the truth. It seems to me that this particular class of contributors furnish ammunition to the editors which, if not turned to account in the editorials, lose half their force. The ammunition is good, but the projectiles fail to make it carry as they should; so the enemy still has the best of it.

Yes, I repeat, it is passion that the ADVOCATE needs to make it of vital use. I do not mean blatant noise. I do mean an indignant, sincere protest against a matchless crime. It is quite possible to be at white heat and yet keep sane. There are occasions when no other manner is effective. There is a passion of fervor, of noble, righteous rage, like Isaiah's—hot, unanswerable. And this is the hour for scourging the money-changers, since there is ample proof that commercial graft, assisted by secret state diplomacy, started and control the war. We need moral dynamics to arouse people. We can dispense just now with editorials which read like essays—good argument, good language, but bloodless. We can read these twelve times a year, and never once experience an impulse to cry aloud our denunciation from the housetop, nor feel any compulsion to *do* something to offset the mania of those who, calling themselves patriotic, strengthen the conflict.

The ADVOCATE has a great opportunity in the fact that such articles as "The Price of the Red Feather," in the April number, may be printed in the United States without Government censure, and should recognize its privilege as a leader in an attempt to create a "stop-the-war" party.

In the present almost universal degeneration of principles, we can hardly depend upon any leader's attitude. All the moral forces have gone down easily under the tremendous power of plutocracy. Even labor unions have turned and martyred their few standard-bearers, because in their blindness they think they are fighting for their country. We do not forget our hero leaders, like Pope Pius X, Liebknecht, Hardie, nor the fearless clergyman here and there who proclaims his principles from his pulpit until his governing board deprives him of his position. It is the old story—abused, scourged, jeered at, put to death, and apotheosized by future generations.

We have believed that the word *patriotism* describes all that is great in love of country. But in every land it has had its roots in warfare, and war-makers see (what novelists have failed to see) that their strongest card is the popular patriotism, something to be absolutely depended upon, grounded as it is in the people's mind as a holy thing, and much more vigorous than their professed religion. From time to time the ADVOCATE has deprecated this battlefield patriotism, but the hour has struck when it should be used as an object-lesson. I should like to see the ADVOCATE at the head of a movement for an "aggressive pacifism," as Mr. Lochner so aptly names his clear-cut, masterly pamphlet.

In order to construct, one has generally first to destroy. We have to pull up the old root of wrong ideas in the popular mind, with its rusty, unused brain and laggard conscience, and in the space immediately plant the strong, true idea. Teach the people to think out every question for themselves without regard to their